

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0449-US1

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR UPDATING NEW VERSIONS OF  
FIRMWARE IN THE BACKGROUND**

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A method, system, and computer program for updating  
firmware in a data processing system as a background  
operation allowing a user to utilize the computer for  
other purposes during the update process is provided. In  
10 one embodiment, after an operating system has been loaded  
and control has been transferred from the service  
processor to the host, the service processor determines  
whether the level of a firmware copy on a system  
component, such as an SPCN card, matches the current  
15 level of firmware stored on a non-volatile memory  
accessible to the service processor. If the level of the  
firmware copy in the component is different from the  
current level, the service processor transfers the  
current level of firmware from the non-volatile memory  
20 accessible to the service processor to the system  
component.